

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EFIS, ROK

SUBJECT: US-ROK TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES

TOKYO FOR REG FISH ATTACHE

1. PURPOSE THIS CABLE IS TO SUMMARIZE FOR EMBASSY
RESULTS OF TECHNICAL FISHERIES MEETING HELD IN SEATTLE
FROM AUGUST 20 TO 24 BETWEEN US AND ROK OFFICIALS.

2. MAIN SUBJECT WAS IMPLEMENTATION OF BILATERAL AGREE-
MENT SIGNED AT WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 24, 1972 CONCERNING
COOPERATION IN FISHERIES, UNDER TERMS OF WHICH ROK
AGREED UNDERSCORE INTER ALIA END UNDERSCORE TO ABSTAIN
FROM FISHING SALMON AND HALIBUT IN NORTH PACIFIC AND
BERING SEA EAST OF 175 DEGREES WEST LONGITUDE AND US
AGREED UNDERSCORE INTER ALIA END UNDERSCORE TO PROVIDE
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ROK TECHNICAL HELP IN DEVELOPING ROK SALMON RUNS AND

SHELLFISH RESOURCES.

3. US SIDE REQUESTED COOPERATION OF ROK VESSELS IN PERMITTING COURTESY BOARDINGS BY US ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL, NOTING THAT THERE HAD BEEN FOUR REFUSALS TO ACCORD SUCH PRIVILEGES IN RECENT MONTHS. ROK AGREED HELP FACILITATE SUCH BOARDINGS.

4. US ASKED WHY SEVERAL VESSELS SIGHTED IN NORTH PACIFIC WERE MANNED BY KOREANS BUT REGISTERED IN PANAMA. ROK REPLIED THAT ONE SUCH VESSEL WAS UNDER CHARTER TO ROK GOVERNMENT BUT SAID HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF OTHERS. FYI US SUSPECTS THAT SOME VESSELS ARE PURCHASED FROM JAPAN BY KOREANS AND REGISTERED IN PANAMA AS A MEANS OF CIRCUMVENTING JAPANESE REGULATIONS RESTRICTING NUMBER OF FISHING VESSELS WHICH MAY BE EXPORTED TO CERTAIN COUNTRIES. ANY ADDITIONAL LIGHT EMBASSY MIGHT BE ABLE THROW ON THIS MATTER WOULD BE APPRECIATED. END FYI.

5. US NOTED ITS CONCERN WITH INCIDENTAL HALIBUT CATCHES BY ROK TRAWLERS AND LONGLINERS, A CONTINUING PROBLEM IN NORTHEASTERN PACIFIC AND BERING SEA.

6. ROK WAS VAGUE ON LEVEL OF FUTURE FISHING EFFORT OFF US COASTS, SAYING ON ONE HAND THAT ANY INCREASE IN SUCH EFFORT WOULD BE HAMPERED BY RISE IN OIL PRICES, BUT THEN INDICATING THAT 7 OR 8 MORE VESSELS WOULD BE ADDED TO BLACKCOD FLEET AND THAT POLLOCK FISHING EFFORT MIGHT BE INCREASED IF PRICES IMPROVE. US EMPHASIZED THAT MAJOR FISHERIES IN REGION HAVE REACHED A STATE OF FULL DEVELOPMENT AND THAT LITTLE POTENTIAL FOR A SUSTAINABLE INCREASE IN PRODUCTION EXISTS.

7. ROK REAFFIRMED ITS WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN JOINT FISHERIES VENTURES WITH US FIRMS. US AGREED TO BRING ROK PROPOSALS TO ATTENTION OF POTENTIAL INTERESTED PARTIES.

8. ROK ALSO REPEATED ITS EARLIER REQUEST FOR 30 MILLION DOLLAR COASTAL FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT LOAN AND A 25 UNCLASSIFIED

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MILLION DOLLAR EXIM BANK LOAN FOR SHRIMP FISHERY OFF SOUTH AMERICA AND AFRICA. US SIDE INDICATED THESE SUBJECTS BEYOND PURVIEW OF TALKS BUT ROK REQUEST WOULD BE RELAYED TO APPROPRIATE USG AUTHORITIES.

9. ROK EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT ENTRY OF NORTH KOREAN VESSELS INTO FISHERY AND ASKED US TO INFORM ROK OF ANY SIGHTINGS MADE BY US OF SUCH VESSELS. US AGREED TO DO SO.

10. ROK REQUESTED AND US AGREED TO ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE
ONE MILLION COHO SALMON EGGS, ONE AND ONE-HALF MILLION
CHUM SALMON EGGS AND ONE MILLION RAINBOW TROUT EGGS
FOR DELIVERY IN DECEMBER OR JANUARY. EMBASSY'S
ASSISTANCE MAY BE REQUESTED TO HELP WITH DELIVERY OF
EGGS WHEN TIME COMES. KISSINGER

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